

REMARKS

Claims 1-32 are pending. Claims 1-32 stand rejected.

Applicants have amended independent claim 1 to expedite prosecution and/or to further clarify the subject matter therein. It is respectfully submitted, for example, that none of the cited documents, individually or combined, as asserted in the Office Action, teaches at least the first miniport and the second miniport as set forth in claim 1.

In view of at least the amendments to claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that a prima facie case of obviousness has not been presented with respect to claim 1 and its dependent claims (i.e., claims 2-20).

Applicants have amended independent claim 21 to expedite prosecution and/or to further clarify the subject matter therein. It is respectfully submitted, for example, that none of the cited documents, individually or combined, as asserted in the Office Action, teaches at least the first virtual miniport instance and the second virtual miniport instance as set forth in claim 21.

In view of at least the amendments to claim 21, it is respectfully submitted that a prima facie case of obviousness has not been presented with respect to claim 21 and its dependent claims (i.e., claims 22-25).

Applicants have amended independent claim 26 to expedite prosecution and/or to further clarify the subject matter therein. It is respectfully submitted, for example, that none of the cited documents, individually or combined, as asserted in the Office Action, teaches at least the first miniport and the second miniport as set forth in claim 26.

In view of at least the amendments to claim 26, it is respectfully submitted that a prima facie case of obviousness has not been presented with respect to claim 26 and its dependent claim (i.e., claim 27).

Applicants have amended independent claim 28 to expedite prosecution and/or to further clarify the subject matter therein. It is respectfully submitted, for example, that none of the cited documents, individually or combined, as asserted in the Office Action, teaches at least the first

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miniport and the second miniport as set forth in claim 28.

In view of at least the amendments to claim 28, it is respectfully submitted that a prima facie case of obviousness has not been presented with respect to claim 28 and its dependent claims (i.e., claims 29-32).

For at least the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-32 are in condition for allowance.

Applicants do not necessarily agree with the Examiner's characterization of the documents made of record, either alone or in combination, or the Examiner's characterization of recited claim elements. Furthermore, Applicants respectfully reserve the right to argue the characterization of the documents of record, either alone or in combination, to argue what is allegedly well known, allegedly obvious or allegedly disclosed, or the characterization of the recited claim elements should that need arise in the future.

Applicants reserve the right to pursue, without prejudice, subject matter that has been withdrawn, amended and/or cancelled in a continuing application.

With respect to the present application, Applicants hereby rescind any disclaimer of claim scope made in the parent application or any predecessor or related application. The Examiner is advised that any previous disclaimer of claim scope, if any, and the alleged prior art that it was made to allegedly avoid, may need to be revisited. Nor should a disclaimer of claim scope, if any, in the present application be read back into any predecessor or related application.

In view of at least the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Should anything remain in order to place the present application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees, to charge any fee deficiencies or to credit any overpayments to the deposit account of McAndrews, Held & Malloy, Account No. 13-0017.

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Respectfully submitted,

/Michael T. Cruz/
Michael T. Cruz
Reg. No. 44,636

McANDREWS, HELD & MALLOY, LTD.
500 West Madison Street, Suite 3400
Chicago, Illinois 60661
Telephone: (312) 775-8000
Facsimile: (312) 775-8100